
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 30 January 1597 from Thomas Gurlyn to Sir Robert Cecil concerning a petition he had preferred to the Privy Council against the Countess of Oxford. For the circumstances, see Oxford's letter to Cecil dated 11 January 1597, CP 37/67, and attached schedule, CP 37/66.

Right Honourable, may it please you, understanding of your hard opinion conceived against me by reason that I preferred a petition concerning the right honourable the Countess of Oxford, forasmuch as your Honour doth censure every man's cause in one equal balance, and I knowing my cause honest and just, am the rather emboldened to presume to entreat your Honour by writing to permit me into you honourable presence, and to give me leave as well to answer her Honour's objections as to show the cause I did prefer the same;

And if I shall show the part of an honest man towards her Ladyship, then that I may crave your honourable favour, otherwise to fall into your Honour's conceit, and willingly endure such punishment as your Honour shall please to impose on me.

Thus humbly craving pardon for this my overmuch boldness with your honourable answer I most humbly take my leave this 30th of January 1596 [=1597].

Your Honour's in all humbleness of duty to be commanded,

Thomas Gurlyn

Endorsed: To the right honourable Sir Robert Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary to the Queen's most excellent Majesty, and one of her Highness' most honourable Privy Council

Endorsed: 30 January 1596 [=1597], Mr Gurlyn to my Master